Unto His GRACE,

HIS MAJESTIES HIGH COMMISSIONER

And the Right Honourable the Eſtates of

PARLIAMENT,

The *Repreſentation* and *Petition* of the Brewers in and about *Edinburgh.*

Humbly ſheweth,

THAT in the Moneth of *July* 1695. years, when the Parliament, was about the giving to His Majeſty, an additional Exciſe upon *Ale* &c.

The *B*rewers; then Repreſented to His Majeſty's Commiſſioner, and the Honourable Eſtates of Parliament, the lowneſs of their condition, and that unleſs the price of *Ale*; were by them hightned to 32 *d. per Pint* as the Minimum, they could not hold their Trade: Yet the *P*arliament, hopeing that the prices of Victual would quickly fall, was pleaſed to appoint then only 28 *d.* As the Minimum, which is the greateſt price they ever could obtain for their ordinary ſelling *Ale*: Albeit they were not hindered nor Diſallowed by the Government to have raiſed it higher, yet without the Authority of a Law, they could not; altho the prices of Victual and their burdens, did after that, Encreaſs greatly: Whereupon the Brewers, in the Moneth of *March* laſt, meaned themſelves to the Lords of His Majeſties *P*rivy Council; But rheir Lordſhips did not then find themſelves Authoriſed to appoint. 32 *d.* for the *Pint* of *Ale* as the Minimum, nor to do otherwiſe then the Parliament had done; albeit it was then too plain that 32 *d.* was rather too low then to high a price for the ordinary ſelling *Ale*, Which experience has now too cleary demonſtrated, fora great many Brewers who were Subſtantial men, and Skilful of their Trade of brewing (all their Skil and Induſtry, notwithſtanding) are quit broke, put altogether from their Trade, and not only their own numerous Families

ſcattered, and expoſed to want: but alſo many poor Families of their Servants, who depended upon them by their breaking;are reduced to miſery: and ſeveral Noblemen, and Gentlemen, diſappointed of the Payment of their Bear, which being now too truly underſtood by His *Grace*, His *Majeſties High Commiſſioner*, and the Right Honourable the *Eſtates of Parliament*, they (as the Brewers are informed) deſign that the burden of the additional Exciſe on the Brewers; ſo unſuportable ſhall not ly on them after the Moneth of *February* next to come, which the Brewers deſire to acknowledge with all gratitude, as a mark of the Parliaments compaſſion to them, yet moſt humbly crave liberty,to Repreſent: That unleſs the price of their ordinary *Ale* be raiſed to 32 *d. per Pint* as the Minimum, from the firſt day of *September* next to come 1698. to the firſt *Match* next to come in the year 1699. during the concurring and continuing of the annexed and additional Exciſes; of 6 *d.* being in all with the Touns Impoſition 8 *d.* upon each *Pint* of *Ale*, And that unleſs 28 *d.* for the *Pint* of *Ale*, be by the Parliament appointed as the Minimum, after the laſt day of *February* next to come (if of neceſſity theannexed Exciſe, muſt be continued) It is utterly impoſſible for the Brewers, to hold their Trade, ſo as to pay their Victual and the Reſpective, Exciſes.

Now that 32 *d. per Pint* from the 1ſt. of *September* to the 1ſt. of *March* both next to come, is the leaſt price can be appointed, is ſo plainly reaſonable that your Petitioners do not trouble the Parliament, with other arguments about it, then what are above Repreſented, and if the price of *Ale* after *February* next to come (the annexed Exciſe, being continued) be not 28 *d. per Pint*, the Brewers are ſo far from being bettered by only eaſing them of the additional Exciſe, of 3 *d. per Pint*, that they ſhall be in a worſe caſe then before: if the price of *Ale* ſhall fall 4 *d. per Pint*, eſpecially ſeeing it is certain that the three pennies of annexed Exciſe, come in place of the former two *Merks* doth amount at leaſt to nine *ſhilling* and four *pennies* more. And the Brewers being told by ſome, that they muſt be lyable to the annexed Exciſe, after the Moneth of *February* next to come whither they be able or not ſeing (as is alleadged) it cannot be taken off now, They do deſire and earneſtly intrate, that inthe moſt accurat way, that can be deviſed an experiment by order of Authority may be made, by cauſing brew a quantity of the ſeveral kinds of Malt to be procured and brown by any truſty perſon or perſons, (tho not trading) but Skilful in the way of brewing, and that at the ſight and occular inſepction of ſuch as ſhall be Authoriſed for that effect: that the real product of Malt being known, it may be truly underſtood whither the Brewers be able or not to ſell their *Ale* under the rates deſired in the preſent circumſtances: And then to all men who will ſoberly allow a litle of their patience and ſerious thoughts upon this weighty (tho too litle pondered) affair, which ſo much concerns both the King and Country, it will evidently appear that the Brewers are not able by their Trade of brewing to pay their Victuall and Exciſes unleſs the price of *Ale* be hightned as above And by impartial reckoning it will be found that the Exciſes have for theſe ſeveral years bygone been payed not by the drinkers (as is often unconſideratly Alleadged) but truly and indeed by the Brewers,and that not out of any profite of their Trade, but out of their own privat Stocks and for-

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tuns all which to a demonſtration is evident from the computation following *viz.*

Payed by the Brewer,

To the Boll of Malt, now ſelling at 12. and 13. *lib. per Boll*, Reckoned here only to	9. 10. 0.
Annexed-Exciſe	1. 16. 0.
Towns Impoſition	1. 04. 0.
Houſe-rent	0. 06. 0.
Couperadge	0. 02. 0.
Maintainance of Servants	0. 06. 8.
Coal and Candle	0. 13. 4.
Penny *per* pound Drink-Money, and Expences of inbringing	1. 00. 0.
Maintainance of Brewing-Looms, ſuch as Coper, Coolers, Fats, Floats, Wortſtones, Gantrees. &c.	0. 06. 0.
Summa,	15. 04. 0.

Received by the Brewer,

Per 18. Gallons of 28. *d. Ale.* which is more than can be drawn, albeit they Survey to the Rate of 20 Gallons moſt unreaſonably, and for the 18. Gallons ſuppoſed, tho not got, the Brewer gets only	14. 08. 0.
Per Draff, Barm, and Dreg, according to the preſent rate	00. 14. 0.
Per Ballance of Loſs	00. 02. 0.
Summa,	15. 04. 0.

By which Computation, Which is as candid as can be made, and which cannot de quarrelled by any unbyaſſed Perſon; It plainly appears, That the Brewers have been, and (ſo long as the Victual continues Dear) will be Loſers, beſides their Hazard and frequent Loſs by bad Debt, Returned; Run out, and Spoilt *Ale*, the Taxes which they pay to the Town for their Trade, and other great Riſques: And when the Victual ſhall fall cheaper, they muſt draw a far ſhorter length and quantity of *Ale*, and it is notourly known, that no Brewer can well draw 18 *Gallons* of any of the beſt *Scots* Barly at preſent of ſuch Drink as can keep for the neceſſary time of Runing for Sale in a *Tavern*, or *Ale-houſe*; Albeit ſome endeavoured to get, and may be even got of the beſt *Engliſh* Victual ſometime 20 *Gallons*, whereof a great part was often ſpoiled, becauſe of its Weakneſs; But the Tacks-men, and their Servants, taking advantage, that 20 *Gallons* had been drawn of the beſt *Engliſh* Victual, they have never miſſed ſtill to Survey to 20 *Gallons* for each Boll, even of the worſt *Scots* Victual, by which their Surveys are made up, as now they be. So many Brewers being already broken, theſe who ſtill are wreſtleing to hold ſo much Credit, as to keep their numerous Families together, find themſelves neceſſitated, now when they have an oppurtunity to lay their ſtaitened Caſe before *His Grace His Majeſties High Commiſſioner*, And the *Right Honourable the Eſtates of Parliament*, their great Patriots, from

from whoſe Wiſdom and Care, only they can expect ſeaſonable and effectual Relief.

May it therefore pleaſe Your Grace, *And* Right Honourable Eſtates of Parliament, *To take Your Petitioners ſtraitned Caſe unto Your ſerious Conſideration: And for preventing the ruine of ſo many Men, and their numerous Families, who have not only hitherto payed ſo great Supplys for the Service of their King and Country; But have and ſtill do Maintain a very conſiderable number of Servants, and their Families, and keep them from Sterving, Begging, or being troubleſome to the Country. Graciouſly to appoint that 32 pennies* Scots per Pint, *ſhall be the* Minimum *for the Price of the* Ale, *from the firſt of* September *to the firſt of* March *both next to come, dureing the concurring, and continuing of the Annexed and Additional Exciſes, which with the Towns Impoſition make in all* 8. d. *of Exciſe upon each Pint of* Ale: *And to appoint, that from the firſt of* March *next to come, dureing the continuing of the Annexed Exciſe, that* 28. d. per Pint, *ſhall be the* Minimum *in and about* Edinburgh, *And to Authorize the* Lords of His Majeſties Privy Council, *to hear and Rectify to the Brewers, what they ſhall hereafter ſee greivous to them, ſo far as their Lordſhips ſhall find juſt, without prejudice to* His Majeſty, *and to Impower Their Lordſhips to Raiſe and Low the Prices of* Ale, *as they ſhall find Cauſe.*

And Your Petitioners ſhall Pray.